

REMARKS

Claims 1-108 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 48, 59, 65, 78, 91, and 100 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the written description, claims, and drawings as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 8-16, 21-31, 36-38, 42-49, 53-60, 64-67, 72-80 and 85-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,717,997 ("Cranford"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites an information communication system comprising a plurality of information communication devices. Each of the plurality of information communication devices is responsive to a respective information communication clock signal. Each information communication clock signal of each of the plurality of information communication devices is associated with a common reference clock signal. The information communication system also comprises a phase controller.

The phase controller is responsive to the common reference clock signal. The phase controller alters a phase of each

Serial No. 10/790,689

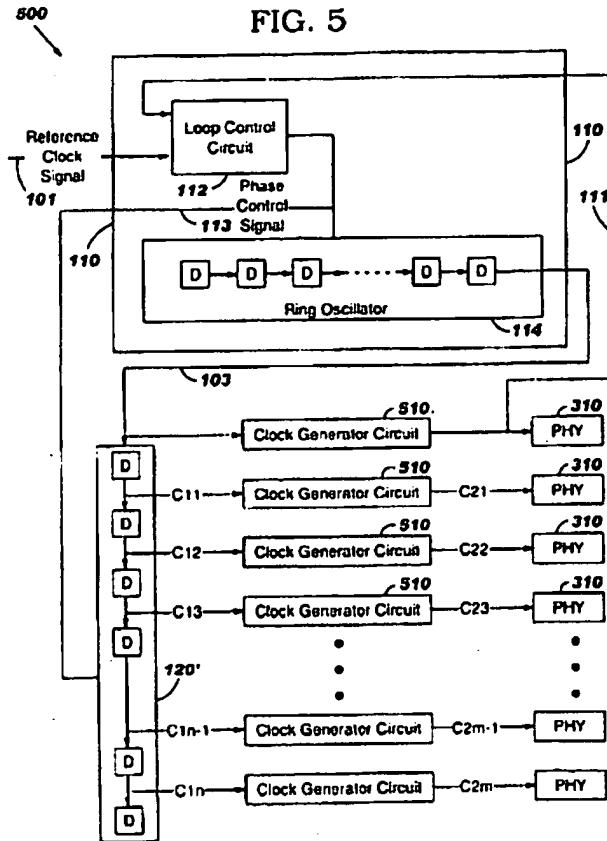
information communication clock signal of each of the plurality of information communication devices by a predetermined amount to at least double a combined frequency of individual frequencies of output current events of the plurality of information communication devices.

Amendments to claim 1 are fully supported by the application as filed, and namely FIGs. 5A and 5B and the related disclosure. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

A. Cranford does not show, teach, or suggest wherein the phase controller alters a phase of each information communication clock signal of each of the plurality of information communication devices by a predetermined amount to at least double a combined frequency of individual frequencies of output current events of the plurality of information communication devices.

As best understood, Cranford discloses progressively delaying phases of a clock signal to progressively delay when PHYs 310 are driven. This is shown in FIG. 5 of Cranford (provided below).

FIG. 5



Cranford does not disclose that the phase control circuit 110 alters phases to control a combined frequency output for the PHYs. Therefore, Cranford does not disclose a phase controller that at least doubles a combined frequency of individual frequencies of output current events of the plurality of information communication devices, as in claim 1. It is not clear from Cranford what sort of current output frequency would be provided based on the delays of PHYs 310 in Cranford. However, it is clear that the phase control circuit 110 of Cranford is not concerned with controlling phases to control

combined output current for the PHYs 310. Claim 1 therefore includes elements not disclosed in Cranford.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has recently stated: "We thus hold that unless a reference discloses within the four corners of the document not only all of the limitations claimed but also all of the limitations arranged or combined in the same way as recited in the claim, it cannot be said to prove prior invention of the thing claimed and, thus, cannot anticipate under 35 U.S.C. §102... [D]ifferences between the prior art reference and a claimed invention, however slight, invoke the question of obviousness, not anticipation." Net MoneyIN Inc. v. VeriSign Inc., 88 USPQ2d 1751, 1759-1760 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

Therefore, claim 1 is allowable for at least this reasons.

B. Other Claims

Independent claims 14, 27, 37, 48, 59, 65, 78, 91, and 100 are allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Dependent claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-36, 38-47, 49-58, 60-64, 66-77, 79-90, 92-99, and 101-108 ultimately depend from claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 48, 59, 65, 78, 91, and 100 and the are therefore allowable for at least similar reasons.

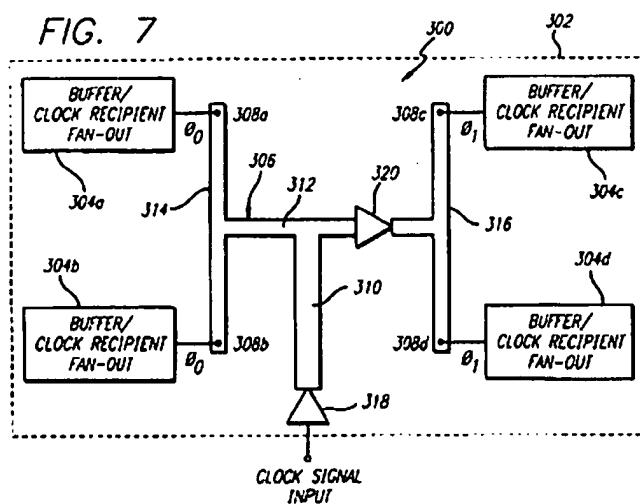
REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 17, 32, 39, 50, 61, 68, 81, 91-93, 96-102 and 105-108 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 7,717,997 ("Cranford") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0197498 ("Watannabe"). Claims 5, 18, 33, 40, 51, 62, 69, and 82 are rejected over Cranford. Claims 7, 20, 34, 71 and 84 are rejected over Cranford in view of U.S. Pat No. 5,610,911 ("Ishikawa"). Claims 6, 19, 35, 41, 52, 63, 70, and 83 are rejected as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of European Patent Application EP 0 903 660 A1 ("Graef"). Claims 95 and 104 are rejected over Cranford in view of Watannabe as applied to claims 91 and 100 above, and further in view of Ishikawa. Claims 94 and 103 are rejected over Cranford in view of Watannabe as applied to claims 91 and 100 above, and further in view of Graef. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 recites that the phase of at least two of the information communication clock signals are substantially identical. A number of information communication clock signals with substantially identical phase is less than a total number of information communication clock signals of the information communication system.

A. Cranford and Graef do not show, teach, or suggest that the phase of at least two of the information communication clock signals are substantially identical. The Examiner recognizes the Cranford lacks this element but asserts it is disclosed in Graef.

As best understood by Applicant, Graef discloses providing the same phase signal to two different devices, as shown in FIG. 7 of Graef (provided below). For example, in Graef, buffer 308a and buffer 308b both receive the same clock input signal.



In contrast, claim 6 recites a phase controller that controls the phase of at least two of the information communication clock signals to be substantially identical. In other words, claim 6 includes separate information communication clock signals for different information communication devices that are substantially identical. Graef, on the other hand,

simply includes a single information communication clock signal that is provided to two devices.

Therefore, Cranford and Graef, alone or in combination do not disclose all the elements of claim 6.

It is a longstanding rule that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 180 USPQ 143 (CCPA 1974). Claim 6 is therefore allowable over the cited prior art for at least this additional reason.

B. Other Rejections

As mentioned, claims 4, 17, 32, 39, 50, 61, 68, 81, 91-93, 96-102 and 105-108 are rejected over Cranford and Watannabe. Claims 5, 18, 33, 40, 51, 62, 69, and 82 are rejected over Cranford. Claims 7, 20, 34, 71 and 84 are rejected over Cranford and Ishikawa. Claims 6, 19, 35, 41, 52, 63, 70, and 83 are rejected over Cranford and Graef. Claims 95 and 104 are rejected over Cranford, Watannabe and Ishikawa. Claims 94 and 103 are rejected over Cranford, Watannabe, and Graef.

Graef, Watannabe and Ishikawa do not remedy the deficiencies of Cranford with respect to claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 48, 59, 65, 78, 91, and 100. As mentioned, claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-36, 38-47, 49-58, 60-64, 66-77, 79-90, 92-99, and 101-108 ultimately depend from claims 1, 14, 27, 37, 48, 59, 65, 78, 91,

and 100 and are therefore in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons. Applicant's position with respect to claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-36, 38-47, 49-58, 60-64, 66-77, 79-90, 92-99, and 101-108 should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of claims 2-13, 15-26, 28-36, 38-47, 49-58, 60-64, 66-77, 79-90, 92-99, and 101-108 exist. Applicant reserves the right to address these other reasons at a later date if needed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly addressed. For all of the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. By addressing particular positions taken by the Examiner in the above remarks, Applicant does not acquiesce to other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will allow any outstanding issues to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/18/09

By: Michael J. Wiggins
Michael J. Wiggins
Reg. No. 34,754

Justin H. Purcell
Reg. No. 53,493

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 626
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDW/JHP/jlk

Serial No. 10/790,689

Page 48 of 48